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FUTURE LEADERS OF THE NATIONS

A Plea and a Program
on Behalf of 7,000 Stu-
dents from a Hundred
Nations, in North Amer-
ican Educational
Institutions

Issued by
THE COMMITTEE ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS
— AMONG FOREIGN STUDENTS
347 Madison Avenue
New York

For private circulation

FUTURE LEADERS



RECENT events have awakened the students of North America to a consciousness of immediate obligation to extend brotherly courtesy to all students from other lands. The ignorance, prejudice and indifference of yesterday are being supplanted by a passion for information about the whole world, an appreciation for personality, irrespective of race, and a genuine interest in the highest welfare of all peoples.

Various individuals and organizations are seeing visions of international brotherhood through the leadership of students and are proposing a variety of schemes for its realization. Student leaders from abroad are eager to wield their maximum influence for the extension of good will. Representatives of twenty nations in conference at Northfield, Massachusetts, June 13 to 21, 1918, enthusiastically adopted the following appeal:

TO THE STUDENTS AND EX-STUDENTS OF THE WORLD

“We, students from different lands, having through our contacts developed a feeling of mutual trust and goodwill, invite your cooperation along the following lines, for the purpose of conserving this sentiment among us, and propagating it in our respective countries:

I. WHILE ABSENT FROM OUR NATIVE LANDS:

(a) To disseminate correct information about our respective peoples—their history, achievements, contributions to civilization, and a frank statement of existing obstacles in the path of international understanding.

(b) To cooperate with the existing agencies such as cosmopolitan clubs, international associations, committees on friendly relations, etc.

(c) To avail ourselves of every opportunity of coming in contact with foreign and native students and teachers, and to seek to facilitate the realization of our highest ideals.

II. UPON RETURNING TO OUR HOME COUNTRIES:

(a) To keep in touch with students of other lands with whom we have previously come in contact.

(b) To take advantage of every opportunity to remove any misunderstanding or misinterpretation that may arise in the minds of our people with regard to other peoples—through interviews, talks, written articles, addresses, etc.

(c) To cultivate the acquaintance, and friendship of foreign students in our lands, and do everything possible to make their stay profitable and enjoyable—by introductions, invitations, etc.

(d) To give information to foreign agencies and individuals about students who might be proceeding abroad.

(e) To support existing agencies and create others (according to needs), to promote international friendship by means of written articles, promoting international athletic contests, addresses about other countries, exchanging teachers and students, extending cordial invitations to visitors."

Such a situation demands the earnest cooperation of the leaders of the Student Christian Movement in planning and carrying out an adequate program of service by and for the students from abroad.

The Committee on Friendly Relations among Foreign Students with offices at 347 Madison Avenue, New York City, is prepared to serve as a clearing house of information and service pertaining to international student relations and to this end is employing Latin American, Japanese and other workers, and is cooperating with the Chinese Students Christian Association.

Perhaps the first step in occupying this field of service locally is the appointment of a Committee on Friendly Relations by the President of the Christian Association; this Committee should be composed of a chairman who is a Christian of broad sympathies, and five to twelve members, including at least one professor and possibly two foreign students; in some institutions a secretary should be employed to give part or all of his time to the work of this Committee.

The responsibilities of the local com-

mittee might be classified as follows: records; social; physical welfare; educational; international service; and religious.

1. RECORDS

A card catalogue of foreign students in the institution should be compiled; it should contain the name, nationality, home address, class in college, course, and prospective life work of each student. Record should be made also of the training and experience of each man, his special talents and his attitude toward Christianity. This record should be revised frequently and kept up to date.

2. SOCIAL

Nothing is so much appreciated by the student from abroad as a cordial welcome by fellow-students and an opportunity to share the comforts of American home life. Occasional receptions, special dinners, and concerts should be arranged; a list should be made of homes in which foreign students will be welcomed, and little groups with three or

four American friends should be invited from time to time. Remember the stranger when he is sick—or at Thanksgiving and Christmas times.

If at all possible each student from abroad should be met at the station and introduced to professors and fellow students. Letters of introduction should be given to any who may be transferring to another institution.

3. PHYSICAL WELFARE

Far greater care should be exercised in making sure that foreign students have satisfactory room and board, and that they safeguard their health by taking proper exercise and having an occasional physical examination.

The plucky student from another land who hasn't enough money to pay his expenses will listen more patiently to your gospel if you first give him a chance to meet his financial needs. This can be done by inquiring for opportunities among business men, restaurants, hotels, clubs, and private homes. The worthy student will be willing to do any kind of work and no one should be allowed to

drop out of college for lack of part time employment.

4. EDUCATIONAL

Fully one half of our foreign students have a very imperfect knowledge of the English language; they have studied it before leaving home but they need practice in conversation. In class room and in special gatherings they are embarrassed by this handicap; the committee should discourage their flocking together and speaking their native tongue, and should organize conversation groups under the guidance of volunteer tutors.

A large part of education is gained from inspecting various institutions such as settlements, hospitals, asylums, prisons, business houses and factories. Plans should be made for visits to the most interesting manufacturing plants and welfare institutions within reach, and special courtesy should be extended to the foreign visitors by the managers of such institutions.

An educational guide is available in English, Spanish and Japanese, for any

who apply to the headquarters office in New York.

5. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

If the world is to be organized for the maintenance of international justice and good will, the responsibility rests upon the educated leaders of the nations; nothing is more urgent than the uniting of representatives of various races and religions in a frank discussion of the obstacles in the path of international brotherhood, and in an earnest quest for approved methods of overcoming such difficulties; leaders of international prominence should be invited to address the entire student body on this theme and foreign students should be encouraged to write essays and orations upon it.

Deputations of the ablest speakers among these future leaders might well be organized and week-end visits made to nearby cities and towns; the visitors should be entertained in Christian homes; by addresses in churches, Christian Associations and clubs, they can give a correct description and interpretation of their countries and peoples.

The attractiveness of the summer conference has been increased 100 per cent by the presence of students from many nations. No foreign student should return home without attending at least one of these significant gatherings. Free room and board and remission of the registration fee are granted to delegates from other lands. Each foreign student should be personally invited more than once and should be accompanied to the conference by a congenial American friend.

6. RELIGIOUS

In a spirit of tolerance and sympathy the Committee should seek to conserve and develop Christian character in those who are Christians and should tactfully endeavor to bring all others to a Christian decision.

Non-Christian as well as Christian students should be urged to engage in Bible study, to attend church and to participate in the activity of Sunday schools and young people's societies. Their attendance at evangelistic meetings should be ensured ; books, pamphlets and period-

icals most helpful to students should be placed at their disposal. The committee might wisely interest friends in presenting useful devotional books to students from abroad. Let no foreign student remain in your community without being introduced to some pastor and cordially invited to membership in the Church.

Intimate personal talks on Christian fundamentals ought to be given by leaders who are best prepared through study, experience and residence in foreign lands.

All leaders who would be most efficient in winning the confidence and friendship of students from other lands should take advantage of each opportunity for conversation with these future leaders and carefully read their publications.

North America is destined to become the reception center of students from all nations, and may become a mighty power in establishing world-wide Christian civilization.

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